

# Africa



Africa is home to many of the world's most spectacular species and diverse ecosystems. Unparalleled populations of large migratory mammals cross the savannas of eastern Africa. Three species of great apes: gorillas, chimpanzees, and bonobos, occupy the immense swath of equatorial forest that spans western and eastern Africa, centered on the world's second largest forest block, that of the Congo Basin. The coast of East Africa has an almost continuous string of coral reefs from northern Kenya to South Africa. From the deserts of the Sahara in the north and Kalahari in the south, joined by the

savanna and forest zones of Central Africa, the diverse assemblage of wildlife species and habitats create a rich fabric of ecosystems that is unparalleled in the world today.

Against this majestic backdrop, wildlife is confronted by an array of threats. Human populations, illegal hunting, and transformation of land for agricultural purposes are increasing throughout Africa. The exploitation of natural resources is placing increased pressure on wildlife habitat as industries such as mining, logging and petroleum extraction open more areas with roads. In some countries, political instability undermines the ability of government agencies to protect and manage wildlife. To adequately address these challenges, wildlife professionals need not only strong scientific capacity but also non-traditional skills including community outreach, conflict resolution, and coalition building.

The goal of the Wildlife Without Borders-Africa Program is to assist African nations to develop the

human and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and management focused in and around protected areas. Protected areas play a crucial role for effective in situ conservation of species and ecosystems, providing an important refuge to safeguard key wildlife populations while in some cases providing an opportunity to earn valuable revenues and improve the livelihoods of neighboring communities.

By raising the human and institutional capacity for wildlife conservation throughout Africa, the WWB-Africa program meets a growing demand for non-traditional skills and approaches to conservation. Additionally, the program provides support to build capacity to mitigate the impact of extractive industries, climate change, human / wildlife conflict, illegal trade in bushmeat, and/or wildlife disease in and around protected areas. Target audiences include: wildlife managers, guards, rangers, protected area managers, outreach and educational specialists, community leaders, educators, and decision makers.



*Top left: Tracking Chimpanzees in Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda. Direk Byler/USFWS*

*Above: Impala and Burchell's Zebra in Kenya's Maasai-Mara Game Reserve. Richard Ruggiero/USFWS*

*The Wildlife Without Borders-Africa Program supports projects designed to strengthen the ability of African institutions and individuals to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes for the benefit of the people of Africa and the world.*

## MENTOR Fellowship Program

The rising demand for bushmeat in Eastern Africa from a burgeoning human population has led to a severe decline in many wildlife populations. Alleviating the impact of the illegal bushmeat trade requires a multidisciplinary approach involving wildlife policy, law enforcement, public awareness, and sustainable alternatives.

The 2008-2009 Wildlife Without Borders Africa program built capacity of a team of emerging conservation leaders through fellowships based at the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania. The MENTOR Fellowship Program (Mentoring for ENvironmental Training in Outreach and Resource conservation) supported wildlife professionals from four Eastern African countries (Kenya, Southern Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) to gain the requisite skills to address the illegal bushmeat trade. Fellows undertook a unique combination of active fieldwork and individually-tailored instruction. A hallmark of the

program was the involvement of highly experienced African conservation professionals, who worked closely with the fellows throughout the 18-month program. Out of the program emerged the new Bushmeat-free Eastern Africa Network (BEAN), an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional network consisting of a wide variety of stakeholders who work collaboratively to raise awareness, share information, and leverage resources to build partnerships and capacity to implement grassroots solutions to address bushmeat exploitation affecting protected and surrounding areas in eastern Africa.

WWB-Africa also funded a variety of vital capacity building efforts including:

- improving the capacity of staff at Masoala National Park in Madagascar to conduct ranger-based monitoring and surveillance.

- strengthening the capacity for community-based wildlife conservation

with Northern Rangelands Trust in Kenya by developing and enhancing monitoring systems in 11 Community Conservancies and providing information and resources to local management boards and key stakeholders.

- developing capacity of Ruaha National Park staff in Tanzania to diagnose and investigate disease threats to wildlife and raise awareness of local communities about the linkages between wildlife, domestic animal, and human health

- strengthening capacity of the University of Ghana and Ghana Wildlife Division to integrate research, education and ecotourism into meaningful sea turtle management strategies.



***Program mentors and fellows at College of African Wildlife Management***  
DirckByler/USFWS



***MENTOR fellow working on bushmeat awareness in Kenya.***

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
International Affairs  
Division of International Conservation  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 100  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703/358-1754  
703/358-2115 fax  
internationalconservation@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/international>

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